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Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wetness indicator for alerting a wearer to urination comprising a liquid permeable enclosure having a liquid absorbent body therein, said liquid absorbent body absorbing liquid in the presence thereof and applying hydraulic pressure to the enclosure upon absorption of a preselected amount of liquid, said enclosure limiting expansion of the absorbent body so that the wetness indicator stiffens as liquid is absorbed, said wetness indicator having a first stiffness when dry and a second stiffness greater than said first stiffness upon absorption of said preselected amount of liquid.
2. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said wetness indicator is generally elongate.
3. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said absorbent body comprises a sheet laid over itself at least once to form at least two folds.
4. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 3 wherein said absorbent body is formed from thin sheet material fan folded longitudinally multiple times to form a multifold structure.
5. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 2 wherein said wetness indicator is generally rounded upon absorption of said preselected amount of liquid.

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6. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 5 wherein said wetness indicator has a width between about one-fourth its length and about three-fourths its length.

7. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said enclosure has at least two chambers.

8. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 7 wherein said chambers are generally elongate and parallel.

9. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 7 wherein said enclosure comprises a liquid permeable lining and a base layer attached to said lining to form said chambers between the base layer and the lining.

10. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 9 wherein said base layer is bonded to said lining along a series of parallel, spaced-apart seams.

11. A wetness indicator as set forth in claim 1 in combination with a garment, said wetness indicator being positioned in a crotch region of the garment.

12. A garment comprising an inner surface facing a wearer when wearing the garment, and a wetness indicator positioned relative to the inner surface for alerting the wearer when the inner surface becomes wet with liquid, said wetness indicator having a first stiffness when dry and a second stiffness greater than said first stiffness upon absorption of said preselected amount of liquid.

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13. A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said wetness indicator is positioned in the garment to press on the inner thighs of the wearer.

14. A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said garment comprises toilet training pants.

15. A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said wetness indicator is generally elongate.

16. A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said second stiffness is at least about five times greater than said first stiffness.

17. A garment as set forth in claim 16 wherein said second stiffness is between about five and about twenty-five times greater than said first stiffness.

18. A garment as set forth in claim 17 wherein said second stiffness is between about ten and about fifteen times greater than said first stiffness.

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19. A garment as set forth in claim 12 wherein said wetness indicator comprises a liquid permeable enclosure having a liquid absorbent body therein.

20. A garment as set forth in claim 19 wherein said enclosure has at least two generally elongate and parallel chambers.

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21. A garment as set forth in claim 19 wherein an unrestrained saturated volume of the liquid absorbent body is greater than the volume of the liquid permeable enclosure.

22. A garment as set forth in claim 19 wherein said second stiffness is at least about five times greater than said first stiffness.

23. A garment as set forth in claim 22 wherein said second stiffness is between about five and about twenty-five times greater than said first stiffness.

24. A garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein said second stiffness is between about ten and about fifteen times greater than said first stiffness.